



EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT NEWS

**The Monthly Electronic Newsletter of
Homeland Security and Emergency Management**
N.H. Department of Safety, John J. Barthelmes, Commissioner
33 Hazen Drive
Concord, NH 03305
1-800-852-3792
newsletters@hsem.nh.gov

January 2008



Seabrook Station

ELECTRICAL PROBLEM CAUSES SEABROOK OUTAGE – Seabrook Station technicians are working to get the plant back on line after it was shut down following an electrical malfunction. The plant automatically shut down just after 11 p.m. on January 19th due to a fault in a 345-kilovolt electrical bus, which left it with only one source of off-site power. Seabrook is required to have at least two sources of off-site power, which are used to run the plant's control systems. Normally it has three. Plant officials said all safety systems operated normally and the automatic shutdown occurred without incident. Officials said the electrical bus was damaged and some equipment needed to be replaced. Seabrook was in cold shutdown while the repair work was done.

LOCAL, STATE EMERGENCY STAFF MEET WITH SEABROOK – Emergency officials from Seabrook Station Emergency Planning Zone towns and HSEM staff met January 16th in Hampton with utility emergency planners. The gathering was primarily a thank-you function for the local officials, but one speaker brought an important message for all EPZ towns. Wesley J. Colby, the Department of Safety's Director of Business Administration, strongly urged Seabrook-area communities to send invoices and other paperwork for reimbursements, new equipment or anything else that is billed to the state as soon as possible. Colby said those expenses are included in the assessment that Seabrook pays the state for emergency planning. Sending in the paperwork means faster reimbursements and a more accurate assessment. (The same applies to Vermont Yankee communities.) Seabrook Emergency Planning Director David Currier and HSEM Director Christopher M. Pope thanked the local officials for their efforts.

SEABROOK AND VY EMERGENCY CALENDARS ARE OUT – Emergency public information calendars were mailed to all homes and business in the Seabrook Station and Vermont Yankee Emergency Planning Zones last month. The respective calendars provide instructions in case of an emergency at either plant, as well as basic information about the facilities. An important change in this year's Vermont Yankee emergency instructions is the relocation of the Reception Center from Spaulding Gym at Keene State College to Keene High School. That change was made because there is less traffic congestion in the area of the high school. Emergency management directors who need additional copies of either calendar should call HSEM at 1-800-852-3792.

DON'T COUNT ON FEDERAL SNOW EMERGENCY AID – With four major snowstorms during December and several more in January, many New Hampshire communities are finding that their snow removal budgets are already tapped out with winter less than half over. But municipal officials should probably not count on federal snow emergency aid. The feds have tightened up on eligibility rules for snow aid, and have emphasized that snow removal is primarily the responsibility of local and state government. Snow emergency aid will only be available for record snowfalls during an individual storm, or for storms that also produce severe winds or ice or continue over an extended period of time. Local emergency management directors who want details on eligibility for federal snow assistance should see Frequently Asked Questions about Snow Emergency Declarations at the HSEM website or contact their community's field representative.

HSEM DIRECTOR ATTENDS NATIONAL CONFERENCE – N.H. Homeland Security and Emergency Management Director Christopher M. Pope is in Monterey, Calif., during the last week in January, attending the Center for Homeland Defense and Security's annual conference. State and federal Homeland Security officials from around the country are attending the conference. Topics being discussed are Challenges of Border Security, Issues of Intelligence and Information Sharing and Bridging the Gap of Public and Private Integration.

The Center for Homeland Defense and Security is based at the U.S. Naval Postgraduate School. Director Pope is an alumnus of the school.

HSEM IN 2007, BY THE NUMBERS – Two-thousand seven was a busy year for N.H. Homeland Security and Emergency Management. The third in a series of three devastating floods struck the state in April, prompting a full-scale EOC activation and disaster response. Just a month later the agency moved to its new home on the grounds of the state Fire Academy on the Concord Heights. In addition, the agency carried out seven low-level EOC activations to monitor weather situations, four major exercise sequences and 12 Disaster Behavioral Health Response Team activations. It provided assistance for 69 local drills and exercises, awarded more than \$2.5 million in Hazard Mitigation Program Grants to 32 communities, conducted 30 Comprehensive Emergency Management Planning for Schools workshops and processed, calibrated or repaired 1,357 radiological meters and 15,192 dosimeters.

INTERN WORKS WITH HSEM STAFF – Manchester firefighter Kevin Healey, a master's degree candidate at the University of New Hampshire, is doing an internship at HSEM this semester, working in the Operations Section. His project is to compile a Resource Management Directory to be used by the agency during incidents. He will be working at HSEM through April. Welcome aboard Kevin!

HSEM STAFF LEARN ABOUT PSYCHOLOGICAL FIRST AID – Disaster victims and aid workers can suffer from a variety of losses. Physical injuries and lost property are the most obvious. But disasters can also cause psychological problems for both victims and responders, and those are not as easy to identify. During January, Paul Degnan and Fred White of the Disaster Behavioral Health Response Team (DBHRT), conducted workshops for HSEM staff in an effort to help them understand some of these problems. Just like physical first aid, psychological first aid is intended to stabilize people who have been traumatized, prevent further injury, maintain status until professional care is available and to facilitate the transition to professional care, if necessary. Another important lesson for all emergency workers is that they are not immune to psychological trauma and they need to take care of themselves and their families during disasters.

Assistance with disaster victims, critical incident debriefing for first responders or training is available from DBHRT by calling 1-800-852-3792.